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BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year

1955



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HEALTH AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE, 1955

Councillor W. E. Morgan (Chairman).

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor K. L. Smith).

Alderman K. H. Ashcroft.

Councillor I. E. Baker.

Councillor R. T. Browne.

Councillor J. Jennings.

Councillor P. G. G. King.

Councillor J. W. Richardson.

Councillor A. C. Tarnow.

Councillor A. E. Toombs.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

D. J. N. McNab, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

F. le V. Friend, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

D. J. Cartridge, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

A. F. Saunders, Cert.S.I.B.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

I submit for your information and consideration my ninth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department, with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough of Christchurch lies on the Hampshire Coast at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Stour. It is built on a subsoil which is predominantly sand and gravel and is so situated that it has a remarkably equable climate, mild in the winter and warm, but not oppressive, in the summer. It is in fact a pleasant place in which to live and work and this attracts many on their retirement and others with much of their working life still before them. There has been a progressive and rapid rise in the population, which has increased by 35% since the end of the war, much of which has been by immigration.

The aircraft industry is now the principal source of employment but there are also two large Ministry of Supply establishments, and many smaller factories turning out a very varied selection of products. There is no heavy industry and the area is notably free from industrial smoke. Unemployment is at a very low level and is at a minimum in the summer coinciding with the considerable seasonal influx of holiday visitors.

RAINFALL FOR 1955:

			<i>ins.</i>				<i>ins.</i>
January	...	...	3.33	July	...	...	1.19
February	...	...	1.74	August	...	...	0.79
March	...	...	1.03	September	...	...	1.50
April	...	...	0.54	October	...	...	4.41
May	...	...	4.39	November	...	...	2.42
June	...	...	2.64	December	...	...	5.45

Total: 29.43 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4,813 acres (Census 1951).

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1955: 22,620.

Number of inhabited houses: 7,136.

Rateable value, 31.3.55: £199,602.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £794 7s. 9d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955 (as supplied by the Registrar-General):

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Live Births :							
Total	...	...	...	...	290	138	152
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	271	128	143
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	19	10	9

Still Births :

Total	6	4	2
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	2	2	—

Deaths:

Total	300	152	148
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Infant Mortality :

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age)

Total	8	4	4
Legitimate	8	4	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

(Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

Total	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

Maternal Mortality :

Deaths from puerperal causes	—	—	—
------------------------------	---	---	---

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

	<i>Borough of Christchurch</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.06)		
per 1,000 estimated population ...	12.8	15.0
after application of comparability factor	13.6	—
Still Birth Rate:		
per 1,000 estimated population ...	0.26	0.35
per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	20.3	23.1
Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.77):		
per 1,000 estimated population ...	13.3	11.7
after application of comparability factor	10.2	—
Infant Mortality Rate (Under 1 year of age):		
All causes per 1,000 live births ...	27.6	24.9
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 4 weeks of age):		
All causes per 1,000 live births ...	20.7	17.3
Maternal Mortality Rate:		
per 1,000 total (live and still births) ...	—	0.64
Special Causes:		
Death rate per 1,000 population—		
Whooping Cough	—	0.00
Diphtheria	—	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.07
Tuberculosis	0.04	0.15
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	0.01
Pneumonia	0.31	0.51
Cancer (lung and bronchus)	0.18	0.39
(all causes)	2.21	2.06

Year	Popula- tion	Borough of Christchurch			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1929	8,728	49.0	18.6	11.1	74	16.3	13.4
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1936	13,080	53.1	15.8	12.2	59	14.8	12.1
1940	15,330	24.7	13.1	12.8	55	14.6	14.3
1944	14,810	30.0	22.3	14.2	46	17.6	11.6
1948	19,190	16.0	16.1	11.25	34	17.9	10.8
1950	19,500	16.6	15.4	12.6	30	15.8	11.6
1951	20,330	23.5	16.7	12.6	29.6	15.5	12.5
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.03	27.6	15.3	11.3
1953	21,510	15.8	14.7	16.3	26.8	15.5	11.4
1954	22,230	26.1	13.8	11.7	25.5	15.2	11.3
1955	22,620	27.6	12.8	13.3	24.9	15.0	11.7

Causes of Death:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	25
18. Coronary disease, angina	26	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	4	5
20. Other heart disease	29	34
21. Other circulatory disease	10	6
22. Influenza	2	—
23. Pneumonia	2	5
24. Bronchitis	3	2
25. Other disease of respiratory system	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34. All other accidents	3	4
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
TOTAL (all causes)	152	148

With the exception of Measles the general incidence of infectious disease remained at a low level throughout the year.

A moderate increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases, as compared with the previous year, was due in the main to sporadic, apparently unconnected cases.

The national incidence of Poliomyelitis was the third highest ever recorded and we were fortunate therefore to have few cases, and none of major severity.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Number noti- fied</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 population</i>	
		<i>Borough of Christ- church</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Scarlet Fever	24	1.06	0.73
Whooping Cough	10	0.44	1.78
Diphtheria	—	—	0.00
Erysipelas	—	0.04	0.10
Measles	359	15.88	15.61
Pneumonia	7	0.31	0.63
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	3	0.13	0.08
(non-paralytic)	1	0.04	0.06
Meningococcal infection	1	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning	—	—	0.29
Dysentery	1	0.04	0.83

The Chest Clinic facilities are unchanged. Dr. Stuart Robertson, who is Medical Director of the local Mass Radiography Unit, conducts a clinic at the Millhams Street Health Centre, on Mondays for old cases and on Wednesday afternoons for new ones. The Clinic serves the Borough of Christchurch, the

Borough of Lymington, most of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a very small part of the New Forest Rural District.

The number of notifications of new cases has remained at a satisfactorily low level, and the low death rate is in keeping with the encouraging national trend in this disease. There seems now no question that the long battle against tuberculosis is achieving a very considerable measure of success and that progress towards the elimination of the disease is bound to continue with increasing momentum.

Number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at 31.12.55: 177.

<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
82	68	11	16

New Cases and Mortality 1932-1955:

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1932	1	7	—	3	2	3	—	—
1936	4	4	2	1	1	—	2	—
1940	10	1	2	4	5	1	—	—
1944	5	2	2	2	1	2	—	—
1948	15	10	1	4	2	1	—	1
1949	19	9	1	2	6	2	—	—
1950	8	5	2	—	3	1	—	—
1951	6	7	—	1	5	2	—	—
1952	12	7	—	1	1	1	1	—
1953	11	8	1	—	4	—	—	—
1954	3	2	1	—	—	1	1	—
1955	3	3	—	2	—	1	—	—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

No visit of the Mass Radiography Unit was paid to Christchurch during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS — CARE AND AFTER CARE:

The Christchurch, Lymington and District T.B. Care Committee has completed another successful year of voluntary service to tuberculous patients in the area served by the Christchurch Chest Clinic. The number of patients assisted rises slowly year by year and, with rising prices, the cost of this service likewise increases. Apart from the annual County Council grant of £100, funds are obtained largely from the sale of N.A.P.T. Christmas Seals, but also to a considerable extent from donations and collections. During the past year over £350 was expended on 36 cases. The widely representative committee is under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners, with Major F. A. L. Lawrence as Hon. Secretary, and Lt.-Col. M. E. Morgan as Hon. Treasurer. Sincere tribute must again be paid to their devoted service.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION:

In June the County Council introduced a Whooping Cough, and combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, Immunisation Scheme. These two prophylactics are now available for distribution to family doctors and are available at all Child Welfare Clinics. The demand for whooping cough immunisation on its own appears to be minimal, but the combined treatment is popular and has largely replaced diphtheria immunisation on its own. This is an excellent trend, since diphtheria immunisation was tending to show some signs of falling off owing to the continued very low prevalence of the disease. It is feared that if any general reduction in the immunisation rate occurs diphtheria would be likely to reappear.

Possibly as a result of the general introduction of the combined treatment the falling trend of the past two years has been reversed, and more children were immunised against diphtheria, either alone or in combination with whooping cough, than in any year since 1950.

During the year 288 children were immunised of whom 232 were under the age of five, and 56 were over five. 403 children previously immunised received refresher doses. The proportion of children born within the previous twelve months who were immunised was 50%.

The following table sets out the number of children in the Borough, under differing age groups, who have been immunised either against diphtheria or whooping cough or against these two combined. Treatment carried out prior to 1946 is not included since records at that time were kept in an incomplete form.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population:

Number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation against Diphtheria and/or Whooping Cough at any time between 1st January, 1941 and 31st December, 1955.

AGE ON 31.12.55 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1955			1-4 1951-1954			5-9 1946-1950			10-14 1941-1945			Under 15 Total		
	DIPH.	COMB.	WH.C.	DIPH.	COMB.	WH.C.	DIPH.	COMB.	WH.C.	DIPH.	COMB.	WH.C.	DIPH.	COMB.	WH.C.
A. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1951-1955.	-	26	-	539	292	5	1194	74	4	755	5	-	2488	397	9
B. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1941-1950.	-	-	-	-	-	-	401	17	-	462	2	-	863	19	-

AMBULANCE SERVICES:

The Ambulance Service in the area is run by the County Council from a Main Station at "Hillcroft," New Street, Lymington. There is a sub-station at Christchurch, and further sub-stations at Ringwood and New Milton, but in order that calls can be properly correlated, all requests for transport have to be made to the Main Station—Telephone number Lymington 2331.

NURSING SERVICES:

The District Nursing and Midwifery Service is provided by the County Council and is administered locally by a District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of the Nurses and their areas:—

<i>District Served</i>	<i>Name and address of Nurse</i>	<i>Service</i>
CHRISTCHURCH	Mrs. G. H. Cox, Valetta, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel.: Christchurch 1160.	Midwife
	Mrs. Guthridge, 36, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel.: Christchurch 729.	District Nurse Midwife
	Mrs. M. B. Guest, 118, Riverway, Christchurch. Tel.: Christchurch 1678.	District Nurse
	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel.: Christchurch 2225.	District Nurse
SOMERFORD	Miss M. Ellwood, Hazeldene, 434, Lymington Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel.: Highcliffe 3426.	Midwife
MUDEFORD Purewell Burton Winkton Common	Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel.: Christchurch 1204.	District Nurse Midwife
HIGHCLIFFE Beckley	Mrs. I. Sherwood, Brackenridge, Bracken Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel.: Highcliffe 3282.	District Nurse Midwife

HOME HELP SERVICE:

The Home Help Service is also provided by the County Council and is under the local administration of the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Miss P. M. Stevens, 13, Stour Road, Christchurch. Telephone: Christchurch 900.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company which is situated within the Borough. The Company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, most of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District, and part of the Borough of Lymington. In addition, since the beginning of the year, the Company has been providing a bulk raw water supply for the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is derived from the River Avon within the Borough and is treated by slow sand filtration and, until April, by chloramination. In April super-chlorination was commenced in order to provide an additional safeguard to the supply in view of the deterioration in the quality of the river water, and the mounting demand of the public.

The Company now has its own water testing laboratory in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. Raw and treated waters are examined daily and in addition periodical independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory. The chemist spends part of his time dealing with any complaints about the quality or taste of the water which may be received from consumers, and also in investigating possible sources of contamination of the river.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Water Company's records show 7,230 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below:—

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 18.3.55 from
WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY.

Chemical Results in parts per million:

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Turbidity: Nil.

Colour: 3. Odour: Nil.

pH: 8.0. Free Carbon Dioxide: 3.
Electric Conductivity: 410. Total Solids: 275.
Chlorine present as Chloride: 14. Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 190.
Hardness: Total 235; Carbonate 190; Non-carbonate 45.
Nitrate Nitrogen: 2.4. Nitrite Nitrogen: Less than 0.1.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.031. Oxygen Absorbed: 0.45.
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.025. Residual Chlorine: 0.12.
Metals: Absent.

Bacteriological Results:

Number of Colonies developing on Agar:—

1 day at 37°C.: 3 per ml.
2 days at 37°C.: 8 per ml.
3 days at 20°C.: 8 per ml.

Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction:

Present in ——. Absent from 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1):

Present in ——. Absent from 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction:

Present in 100 ml. Absent from 10 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality, and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. The organic quality and bacterial purity of the water are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Sgd. ROY C. HOATHER.

24th March, 1955.

SEWERAGE:

Following the public enquiry in May, 1955, the Minister has approved the scheme for the new treatment works to be built in Stony Lane and the Council's consulting engineers are now preparing the detailed plans. It is greatly to be hoped that the "credit squeeze" will not unduly delay the commencement of work on this vitally necessary project.

The usual difficulties with our present system have occurred, particularly in excessively wet periods. The Borough's sewage continues to be discharged into one of the Bournemouth outfalls owing to the destruction of our own. This is a purely temporary arrangement, and we should be in dire straits if it proved necessary to discontinue it prior to the completion of the new scheme.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

The bacteriological examination of specimens of epidemiological interest from the area is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G. J. G. King. Dr. King is also available to act as an adviser in the control of infections where bacteriology might assist, and a very happy state of co-operation exists between us.

The following specimens emanating from this area were examined at the Laboratory during the year. The details have been kindly supplied by the Director.

Nose and throat	...	38
Sputa ...	...	18
Faeces	...	57
Urine ...	...	4
Venereal disease	...	—
Other human	...	30
Water	...	2
Milk ...	...	174
Ice cream	...	200
Other sanitary	...	97
TOTAL		620

FOOD POISONING:

No case of food poisoning was reported during the year.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

A great deal of time is rightly spent by your Sanitary Inspectors in the routine inspection of food and food premises. These visits, together with the constant propaganda which is now directed towards hygienic food practices, have ensured that food traders are fully conscious of their duty to the public. The low incidence of food poisoning in the area is a heartening reflection, both of the zeal of your Inspectors and of the conscientiousness of food traders and catering staff.

ICE CREAM:

Ice cream, an ever more popular article of food, is consumed by all and sundry in large quantities, in many forms and in widely divergent situations. It is sold by registered and approved retailers

of whom there are now 114 in the Borough. As an article of food it is readily contaminated, both in the course of manufacture and in subsequent retailing, and it says much for both manufacturer and retailer alike, that unsatisfactory samples are now seldom obtained.

Ice Cream Samples since 1947:

RESULT OF METHYLENE BLUE TEST

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	SATISFACTORY		UNSATISFACTORY	
		<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
1947	53	7.5%	20.8%	22.6%	49.1%
1948	72	19.4%	29.2%	32.0%	19.4%
1949	136	48.5%	29.4%	15.5%	6.6%
1950	160	70.0%	19.4%	6.9%	3.7%
1951	88	93.2%	5.7%	—	1.1%
1952	107	79.4%	15.0%	2.8%	2.8%
1953	156	85.3%	14.7%	—	—
1954	247	91.9%	2.4%	5.3%	0.4%
1955	191	82.2%	12.0%	4.2%	1.6%

SCHOOLS:

Overcrowding in the schools showed some improvement. The last of the so-called "Post War Bulge" has passed from the Infant schools and the Primary schools are now bearing the brunt. The Secondary schools will shortly commence to feel its effects. The two schools now worst affected are the new Somerford Primary School and Highcliffe C. of E. Somerford Primary, built for 320 pupils and opened in May 1954, had 466 pupils at the end of the year, and this number is bound to increase further. Space is being borrowed from the new Somerford Secondary School and the position will be eventually relieved by the building of Somerford Infant School which is likely to be of non-traditional construction. At Highcliffe, where there is considerable overcrowding in an old building, and with a steadily increasing population, there is still no definite news of new construction.

The new Somerford Secondary School is still under construction but by the end of the year some 14 classrooms were already in use, three by Somerford Primary. The school will gradually increase to its full capacity of 500-600 pupils by progressive intakes of eleven year olds each September.

School meals are available at all schools, cooked in kitchens on the school premises and in all but one instance served in adjoining dining halls, mostly in two sessions. It remains a matter for regret that in most cases it is necessary also to use the dining halls as classrooms. Cooks and food handlers are given special instruction in hygienic food practices.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS:

The County Council now operates three Child Welfare Centres in the Borough, one in the Millhams Street Clinic each Tuesday, another in St. Mark's Hall, Highcliffe, on the afternoon of the third Friday in each month, and the third, the newly-opened Somerford Centre, in St. Mary's Church Hall on the afternoon of the first and third Wednesdays in the month.

All Centres are run by voluntary committees and staffed by Assistant County Medical Officers and by the Area Health Visitors. In addition to the normal advice on infant care and management, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccination against smallpox is now available at all Centres. Here again I should like to express the Borough's indebtedness to the members of the voluntary committees for their invaluable services.

NURSERIES:

There is now only one residential nursery in the town, that run by the British Red Cross Society at Capesthorpe, Mudeford. The other small Red Cross Nursery, Brooklyn Babies Home, closed early in the year.

There is one small private day nursery.

The County Council Day Nursery in the Square House closed in June. As an alternative a Daily Minders Scheme was proposed, but was not proceeded with in view of the lack of demand for such a service at the present time.

HOUSING:

The number of private houses built during the year showed a further increase to 247, as against 226 in the previous year. The number of Council houses completed was 120, a notable improvement on the 22 of the previous year. The waiting list was reduced by 130 to 338 families.

At the end of the year there were still 68 families in the Christchurch controlled huts at Holmsley, a reduction of 44 in the year.

32 families remain in requisitioned premises.

As a result of a housing survey during the year 63 properties in the Borough are considered unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense, and a further 82 unfit houses are felt to be repairable at reasonable expense. Many of the tenants in the first category will in due course require to be rehoused, not necessarily in Council property, though many are on the Council's waiting list.

In the light of the above it is apparent that the Council cannot yet relax completely in its housing efforts in spite of the disincentives offered by recent legislation and the "credit squeeze".

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47:

No case required action under the above section during the year.

One old man living alone was considered for action but the situation was satisfactorily resolved by the provision of a home help.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT:

I am again indebted to Mr. C. A. Mitchell, the Manager of the Christchurch Employment Exchange, for the following figures showing the state of employment within the area served by his Exchange. The area, in addition to the Borough of Christchurch, includes Hurn and Holmsley.

1. **Unemployment.** The number of persons over 18 years of age who registered for employment at Christchurch Employment Exchange during 1955, was as follows:—

<i>Month</i>			<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
January	...	...	152	94	246
February	...	...	139	92	231
March	...	...	121	84	205
April	...	...	117	66	183
May	...	...	101	56	157
June	...	...	88	43	131
July	...	...	81	43	124
August	...	...	94	43	137
September	...	...	89	35	124
October	...	...	125	61	186
November	...	...	141	74	215
December	...	...	126	54	180
Monthly average for the year			114	62	176

2. **Insured employees at June 1955.** The following statement has been prepared solely for the purpose of providing an approximation of the industrial structure of the area. No significance should be attached to relatively small changes if comparison is made with previous years.

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>Males aged 15 & over</i>	<i>Females aged 15 & over</i>	<i>Total</i>
BASIC INDUSTRIES			
Agriculture, horticulture and forestry	271	42	313
Sand and gravel quarrying	22	—	22
Gas/water/electricity supply	267	10	277
Transport and communications	196	33	229
TOTALS	756	85	841
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES			
Boatbuilding and repairing	53	2	55
Constructional and general engineering	1102	93	1195*
Other engineering (agricultural, electrical, etc.)	106	80	186
Vehicles: Cars, etc. and cycles — manuf. and repair and garaging	159	42	201
Aircraft: manuf. and repair	4976	467	5443
Metal goods and precision instruments	54	3	57
Clothing	4	44	48†
Food and drink	74	47	121
Wood-saw milling, conversion, etc.	45	6	51‡
Printing and publishing	26	7	33
Wooden toys, plastic goods and metal fishing tackle	59	188	247
Other manufacturing industries	17	36	53§
TOTALS	6675	1015	7690
SERVICES			
Building, electrical contracting and civil engineering	708	22	730
Distributive trades	244	320	564
Banking, insurance and finance	73	36	109
National and local government	217	163	380
Professional services:			
Education	94	220	314
Medical and dental	60	259	319
Other services	12	14	26
Hotel and catering trades	63	242	305
Domestic Services (resident and non- resident)	18	239	257
Other miscellaneous services (sport, entertainment, laundering, dry cleaning, hairdressing, etc.)	40	130	170
TOTALS	1529	1645	3174
GRAND TOTALS	8960	2748	11705

*—Includes experimental bridging and tunnelling. †—Includes boot and shoe repairs. ‡—Includes upholstery. §—Mostly mica cutting and dressing.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough has been satisfactory throughout the year.

Measles was the only infectious disease in any marked prevalence.

The estimated population increased by only 390, which is considerably less than the average annual increase over the past ten years.

The Birth Rate again declined and appears to be the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

The Infant Mortality Rate rose slightly and was the highest recorded since 1949.

The Death Rate showed a moderate increase but after application of the comparability factor it was still well below the national figure.

Rapid strides have been made in housing, both private and council, but the problem of Holmsley is still far from being resolved.

Sewage disposal has presented the usual difficulties which cannot fail to worsen with the present tempo of building and the increase in the use of water by the public. The maximum adaptability has been coaxed out of the existing scheme and we cannot but hope that the new scheme will not be delayed.

In conclusion, I wish again to thank the Mayor and Members of the Council for their unfailing interest, my colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and in particular the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their energy and efficiency.

D. J. N. McNAB.

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1956.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

To The MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
of the BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My fifteenth Annual Report, covering the activities of the department for the year 1955, is submitted for your information and consideration.

It has in many ways been a busy year, with the emphasis on Housing, work, which apart from urgent repairs, had been in abeyance since the outbreak of the second world war.

Notwithstanding staffing difficulties, a weekly collection of refuse, salvage and, for part of the year, kitchen waste, was maintained.

The degree of sickness among the refuse collecting staff has again been low, the average per head being only 5.83 days, a tribute to the loyalty of your staff and the conscientious manner in which they approach their work.

The increase in population is small, the figure this year being 390 in excess of that for the previous year.

Building on quite a large scale has continued, particularly in the eastern area, 367 properties having been erected.

The inspectorial and clerical staff is as in former years.

The tables dealing with income and expenditure are for the financial year.

HOUSING INSPECTION AND REPAIRS:

Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, requires local authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within one year of the coming into operation of the Act, proposals for dealing with houses which upon inspection appear to be unfit for human habitation and ought to be included in clearance areas.

Fortunately, the number of properties of this type in your area is small, and is not such as to add greatly to the Council's housing problem.

The preliminary survey and the later detailed inspection of these properties took up a great deal of your inspectors' time, a total of 145 houses having been inspected. Of this number, 82 are to be dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. The remaining 63 have been classified as coming within Section 11. Three of these properties have already been demolished. I am satisfied that quite a number of those scheduled under Section 11 will be reconditioned. Some of the houses to be dealt with under Section 9 are in the process of being repaired.

It would appear that little or no advantage is being taken by owners of the opportunity to increase rents under Section 23 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Since the coming into

operation of the Act in August, 1954, only 5 applications for certificates of Disrepair have been received. Of this number, 2 were withdrawn, and 1 was refused. Two Certificates of Revocation have been granted.

Defects brought to the notice of the department by occupiers were all dealt with under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936. 32 Informal Notices for this class of work were served during the year, 21 of which were complied with. Nine Informal Notices outstanding from the previous year were also complied with.

Three cases of overcrowding came to the notice of the department during the year and the question of rehousing was taken up with the Housing Department.

Your inspectors continue their efforts to bring the overcrowding records up-to-date and 237 premises were dealt with during the year.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:

Good progress continues to be made in the provision of new housing accommodation, both by the local authority and by private enterprise, new building during the year and since the war, being as follows:—

Permanent houses erected by the Council during the year	...	...	...	...	...	120
Houses erected by private enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	...	247
New houses erected by the Council since the war:						
Permanent	...	...	...	...	...	1,144
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	100
New houses erected by private enterprise since the war	...	...	...	...	...	1,068

I think it can rightly be claimed that the majority of houses built by private enterprise are intended for sale and that few, if any, are to let. On the other hand, it is equally true to say that the availability of this type of property and of loans under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, reduces the number of persons who would otherwise be applicants for Council accommodation. This is reflected in the very considerable decrease in the number of applicants on the Council's list. For instance, the number in 1951 was 916. In 1952 the figure fell to 723 and for the year under review it is down to 338.

It is realised that the very considerable decrease in the number of applicants is not due solely to these two factors. Many applicants who were on the list of this authority were also on that of other authorities in the country, and in many cases when lists have been revised, such applicants have not renewed their applications, presumably having been rehoused by another authority or alternatively having found their own accommodation.

HOUSING ALLOCATION:

The following information in respect of families rehoused during the year and of those still on the "Waiting List" has been supplied by Mr. A. G. Head, Housing Officer.

Number of families housed during the year:

In permanent accommodation	...	...	161
In requisitioned premises	...	...	3
In temporary accommodation at Holmsley	...	...	25

At the end of the year, 68 families were temporarily housed at Holmsley, and comprised the following:—

<i>Number in family</i>			<i>Number of applicants</i>
1	...	...	1
2	...	...	6
3	...	...	21
4	...	...	14
5	...	...	17
6	...	...	3
7	...	...	2
8	...	...	3
9	...	...	1
			<hr/> 68

There were 338 applicants on the waiting list at the end of the year, made up as under:—

<i>Number in family</i>			<i>Number of applicants</i>
1	...	...	43
2	...	...	113
3	...	...	90
4	...	...	71
5	...	...	15
6	...	...	2
7	...	...	2
8	...	...	1
9	...	...	1
			<hr/> 338

SUMMARY:

		<i>Year ended December,</i>		
		1953	1954	1955
Applicants on general list	...	594	468	338
Families at Holmsley	...	130	112	68
Families in requisitioned premises		80	70	32
		<hr/> 804	<hr/> 650	<hr/> 438

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

The production, storage and distribution of food are matters requiring constant attention. Because of the heavy demand on their time in connection with other aspects of the department's activities, your inspectors have again been unable to give this work as much attention as I would like.

Fortunately, the food traders in your area are conscious of their responsibilities to the public, and although I am not prepared to say that all the food premises are all that could be desired, most of them show a high standard of cleanliness and are a credit to the town. Most of the shops have fitted wash-hand basins and are provided with running hot and cold water.

Refrigerated display cabinets are fitted in a number of shops, and quite apart from their attractive appearance, these cabinets not only keep the food in good condition, they also reduce the risk of contamination and the tendency, all too frequent still, for customers to handle food before buying. This handling of food is difficult to combat and one can well understand the traders' reluctance to offend and run the risk of losing customers. Prepacking of as many foods as possible and the display of food behind glass screens would help to bring this objectionable habit to an end.

All too frequently one sees dogs being taken into food premises. This custom further emphasises the need for adequate protection of all food.

Apart from clubs, there are 221 food premises in the borough, made up as follows:—

Grocer	...	...	...	...	...	63
Greengrocer, Fruiterer	...	...	...	...	...	16
Baker and Confectioner	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	25
Fishmonger and Fryer	...	...	...	...	...	12
Butcher	...	...	...	...	...	17
Cafe and Restaurant	...	...	...	...	...	42
Works and School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	16
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	20

The 164 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act are as follows:—

108 are registered for the sale of ice cream.

6 are registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

1 is registered for the storage of ice cream.

38 are registered for the preparation of sausages and pickled meats.

1 is registered for the manufacture of sausages and cooked and preserved meats.

10 are registered for the preparation of fish by any process of cooking.

Only a relatively small quantity of meat was condemned during the year. This meat was treated with a dye and the owners

authorised to dispose of it for animal feeding. Condemned tinned foods were disposed of in the tip.

MILK SUPPLY:

The greater part of the milk consumed in your area is bottled at establishments outside the boundaries of the borough. The premises at which such bottling takes place are supervised by the inspectors of the local authorities concerned and the production of this milk calls for no action on the part of your inspectors. Naturally, checks are made on the methods of delivery, including the condition of vehicles and the cleanliness of personnel.

One dairyman in your district continues to pasteurise and bottle milk. His premises and methods have been closely watched and samples of milk have been taken regularly. 168 such samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year. These samples are submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. Eight failed to pass one or other of the tests. Repeat samples were immediately procured.

The following table gives details of the number and types of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) and (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, and of dairies and persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

Number of distributors of milk	36
Number of dairies on register	4
Dealers licensed to use the designation T.T. Milk ...	15
Dealers licensed to use the designation Pasteurised Milk	34
Dealers licensed to use the designation Sterilised Milk	1
Dealers (Pasteurisers) licensed to use the designation Pasteurised Milk	1
Supplementary licences issued for T.T. Milk	4
Supplementary licences issued for Pasteurised Milk ...	5
Supplementary licences issued for Sterilised Milk ...	1

ICE CREAM

Ice cream continues to be consumed in very large quantities and the number of premises from which it is sold is also on the increase. Whereas in 1954 the number registered for the sale of ice cream was 102, the number has now risen to 114.

This material is particularly susceptible to contamination and it is fortunate that the greater part of the ice cream sold in your area is prepacked at the place of manufacture, handling, and therefore risk of contamination, being reduced to the absolute minimum.

I am satisfied that this product is of good quality at the time of delivery to the retailers and that contamination, if any, occurs at the retailers' premises. This is borne out by the fact that of the 200 samples submitted to the laboratory during the year, 188 were prepacked and satisfied the test. The remaining 12 samples, taken

from bulk supplies, fell in grade 3 or 4. Contamination in these cases is probably due to inadequately sterilised equipment and possibly due to the repeated uncovering of the container, resulting in air-borne infection of the material.

Much as I would wish to see none but prepacked ice cream sold in your area, the use of bulk supplies is considered essential in hotels and restaurants.

Samples taken during the year were graded as follows:—

Grade 1	...	...	...	...	165
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	23
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	8
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	4

FOODS CONDEMNED

The following foods were condemned during the year:—

- 2 boxes Fish.
- 17 tins Fish.
- 345 tins Meat, Fruit, Soup and Vegetables.
- 371 lbs. Beef.
- 58 lbs. Liver.
- 25 tins Milk and Cream.
- 17 lbs. Cheese.
- 12 lbs. Sausages.
- 160 lbs. Vegetables.

SAMPLING — FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

Sampling for adulteration is the responsibility of the County Council. Mr. C. O. Perry, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, carries out these duties and I am indebted to him for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March, 1956.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Number taken</i>
Butter and Other Fats	3
Drugs	2
Milk	60
Sausage and Other Meat and Fish Pro- ducts	6
Spirits	6
Other Foods	10
	<hr/> 87

All samples proved to be genuine.

The 60 milk samples proved to contain an average of 3.90% Milk Fat and 8.82% Non-Fatty Solids.

DRAINAGE:

The greater part of the development taking place in the borough is in the Hinton, Highcliffe Castle and Mudeford areas, and much time is given by your inspectors to drainage work in

connection with this development; 1,833 visits having been made and 783 tests applied.

It is unfortunate that a number of properties constructed during the year could not be connected to the sewer and had to be drained to Septic Tanks.

Where sewers are available, efforts continue to be made to have cesspools and bucket latrines abolished and the premises connected to the sewer; 5 cesspools and 6 buckets were dealt with in this way during the year.

The number of properties not connected to the sewer and the means of drainage are now as under:—

Draining to Septic Tanks	...	...	44
Draining to Cesspools	...	...	50
Bucket Latrines	...	...	60

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:

There is no doubt that caravanning is becoming more and more popular and the south coast attracts more than its fair share of this type of holiday accommodation. It can safely be assumed that the number of persons wishing to spend their holidays in this way will continue to increase, and when one considers the freedom attaching to this type of holiday, the reason for its popularity becomes apparent.

Frequent visits have been made to the 12 sites in your area, all of which are provided with modern sanitary accommodation. Other than occasional overstepping of the permitted number in the height of the holiday season, the sites are well run and no action has had to be taken by the department.

The total permitted number of caravans and chalets on all the sites is now 759.

Quite a number of families occupy their caravans throughout the year. The number doing so last year being 144.

From time to time, caravans in respect of which no licence has been applied for, are discovered in various parts of the borough. The presence of these vans is immediately brought to the attention of the Planning Authority.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

(a) Refuse Collection.

For a number of years, I have drawn attention to the inadequacy of the staff employed on the collection of refuse and to the difficulties confronting the department in the maintenance of a regular weekly collection. Because of the continued increase in the population and the construction of a further large number of houses during the year—367 properties having been erected—the position becomes progressively worse, and I am faced with the problem of maintaining a growing service with inadequate staff.

The Council is in no way responsible for this difficult situation as they have authorised the taking on of extra staff. The

problem is one of supply and demand, and in these days of full employment and high wages, it is impossible to obtain labour for this class of work, work of an uncongenial nature, often carried out under appalling weather conditions.

Some idea of the problem may be gleaned from the following comparative figures, bearing in mind that there has been no change in the number of personnel.

In 1954/55, in addition to the shops, factories, camps and beaches, refuse was collected from 6,769 dwellings. The quantity collected, including 786 tons of ash, was 5,969 tons and the overtime worked, 1,699 hours. The cost of such overtime was £382.

During the current year, the number of dwellings has risen to 7,136; overtime to 3,196 hours, and the cost of overtime to £842. The quantity of refuse collected, including 1,555 tons of ash, was 6,705 tons.

The men appreciate a certain amount of overtime, but this has now reached the stage when the number of hours they are asked to put in interferes quite considerably with their personal activities, and though there has been no outright refusal to work on, the men have made it clear that the present situation cannot be expected to go on indefinitely. I am in full agreement, but at this stage cannot see how overtime is to be reduced.

Every effort will be made to maintain a weekly collection, and it is to be hoped that staffing difficulties will be overcome.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

As in previous years, refuse has been disposed of by controlled tipping. The high cost and scarcity of fuel have made the householder much more conscious of the value of this material, and whereas in normal times quite a lot of ash and cinders are to be found in the bins, there is now an almost total absence of this material, refuse consisting almost exclusively of paper, tins, bottles, jars, rags and metals.

The very large scale on which foods are now prepacked has resulted in the production of lighter but bulkier refuse. This, of course, results in the more rapid filling of the refuse lorries with consequent increased visits to the disposal point.

The absence of ash gives rise to a further problem in that ash has to be purchased in order to cover down the refuse. This ash, 1,555 tons of which were used during the year, is obtained from British Railways.

A large area of land reclaimed by tipping many years ago has had to be regraded in order to bring it to a satisfactory level. As this work could not be undertaken by the small angledozer I was authorised to hire suitable equipment for this purpose.

Quite an extensive area of land has now been reclaimed at Stanpit Marsh. Part of this land has been grassed down and is now used as sports fields.

A further large area is soiled down but has not yet been graded, and cannot therefore be put under grass.

A further 6 acres are covered with ash and it is hoped to soil this down with loam from the adjoining meadows as soon as the necessary equipment is available.

The level of a reasonably large area of land in Avon Run Road, intended to be used as a Car Park, was raised by means of controlled tipping. Because of the intended use, the surface was dressed with gravel instead of ash.

Two areas of low-lying land in Sopers Lane were also dealt with at the request of the owners.

Overtime in the collection of refuse necessarily means overtime at the tip. Here again, overtime worked this year is considerably in excess of that for the previous year, the figures being 1,005 hours at a cost of £294 as against 741 hours and £176 for the previous year.

Earlier in this report, I refer to the change in the nature of refuse and to the consequent rapid filling of the lorries. This is borne out by the fact that whereas the tonnage increase is only 736 tons, the number of loads has risen from 2,948 in 1954, to 3,386 for the year under review.

A good deal of material apart from that collected by the refuse lorries is also dealt with at the tip face, 1,426 loads of builders' rubble, road sweepings and other materials having been disposed of.

(c) Staff.

There has been no change in the number of men employed and the staff is made up as under:—

Foreman (driving most of the time); 4 drivers; 9 collectors; 2 salvage packers; 1 angledozer driver and 1 tip-head attendant.

(d) Transport.

Last year I drew attention to the age and condition of some of the refuse lorries and suggested that vehicles of larger capacity should be purchased. This matter was considered by the Public Health Committee and I was authorised to purchase 2 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers. The shortage of steel has resulted in delay in manufacture and these vehicles are not yet to hand.

I was also authorised to purchase 3 new salvage trailers to replace those acquired in 1941.

The vehicles in use at the end of the year were as follows:—

1 Shelvoke & Drewry side loader, 10 cubic yard capacity, 5 years old.

1 Dennis side loader, 10 cubic yard capacity, 9 years old.

2 Bedford side loaders, 10 cubic yard capacity, 13 years old.

1 Morris side loader, 7 cubic yard capacity, 17 years old.

1 Bristol Angledozer, 6 years old.

The very long hours on the road have again made the washing down and cleaning of these vehicles almost impossible. Servicing is by contract, and this is carried out regularly.

(e) Costs:

COST STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1955/56 AS SUBMITTED TO THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

<i>Item</i>	<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Disposal</i>	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Percentage of total gross expenditure</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
		£	£	£	%
	REVENUE A/C				
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE				
	(i) Labour ...	4908	1969	6877	38.24
	(ii) Transport ...	7148	2177	9325	51.85
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land & buildings	—	1735	1735	9.65
	(iv) Other items ...	46	—	46	.26
	(v) Total gross expenditure ...	12102	5881	17983	100
2	GROSS INCOME ...	662	2159	2821	—
3	NET COST ...	11440	3722	15162	—
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) ...	—	—	—	—
	UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	14 0	5 0	19 0	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only ...	20 5	5 7	26 0	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton ...	32 8	9 6	42 2	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	504	162	666	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	1483	483	1966	

SALVAGE:

The collection and sale of various grades of salvage has been maintained throughout the year, and the quantity disposed of is approximately the same as for the previous year. Due to better prices, however, the income is almost £250 in excess of that for 1954. Satisfying as this may at first appear, the revenue from this source could be considerably increased if larger quantities of material could be handled at the depot.

Much more paper and cardboard are now being collected, and the position is such that the two salvage packers are unable to cope with the increased flow with the present equipment which consists of two outmoded hand-operated baling presses, with the result that a very large quantity of paper and cardboard — with attendant fire hazard — is always in stock. The quantity is such that the original salvage depot has proved inadequate and paper is now having to be stored and baled in a section of the new garage at Stanpit.

It is very difficult, in fact well nigh impossible, to get staff for this class of work and the men at present employed at the depot are 67 and 70 years of age respectively. Both are old servants of the Council and extremely conscientious, and I am naturally anxious to retain their services for as long as possible.

I am satisfied that age has no effect on the quantity of paper and textiles being dealt with, and that even with younger personnel, the quantity handled cannot be increased without the aid of modern equipment.

If the very large quantity of paper now in stock and that collected daily is to be dealt with, the acquisition of an electrically-operated press is essential. Several firms of repute manufacture these machines, the price of which varies from £300 to £700.

This is a matter of great importance to the Council and one which should be given immediate consideration. Failure to provide means of handling this material expeditiously can only result in a continued build up and finally in a complete breakdown of a scheme which in the past five years has provided an average gross annual income of £2,000.

KITCHEN WASTE:

The collection of kitchen waste was made compulsory on certain local authorities in 1945. The scheme was never self-supporting, and had it not been for the "Direction" served on the Council, the collection of this material would not have been undertaken.

The "Direction" was withdrawn some time ago, and because of the difficulty in obtaining staff for the cleansing service, I found it necessary to recommend the Public Health Committee to dis-

continue the collection of this material. This service was withdrawn at the end of September and most of the bins and buckets used for the collection of kitchen waste have been disposed of in accordance with the Committee's instructions.

The Walker N.C.B. Electric Vehicle used exclusively for this service, has also been disposed of.

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL:

Section 2 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, requires local authorities to take appropriate measures to ensure that their district is kept free from rats and mice.

Quarterly and Annual returns have to be submitted to the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Half the cost of operating the scheme is borne by the Ministry.

The following table shows in some detail the work carried out during the year.

Number of premises inspected	...	...	323
Number of premises found to be infested	...	...	229
Number of dwelling houses treated	...	...	193
Number of business premises treated	...	...	28
Number of agricultural premises treated	...	...	2
Total number of visits	...	...	1,368
Estimated number of rats and mice destroyed	...	...	1,337

Comparison with the table for the previous year shows an increase in the number of properties infested and in the number of rats and mice estimated to have been destroyed. The increase was not such as to cause concern and it is true to say that the degree of infestation in your area is low. This is no doubt due to the continued co-operation from the public and to the constant vigil of your Rodent Operator.

At the request of the Ministry, a survey of the sewers was made and 117 manholes were baited. Only 2 proved to be infested. These were treated and the infestation cleared.

Your Rodent Operator also deals with premises infested with fleas or bugs and the disinfection of bedding and clothing.

Fortunately, the number of flea and bug infestations was again low.

FACTORIES:

Because of pressure of work in other directions, mainly in connection with housing inspections, the number of visits made by the sanitary inspectors to the factories is considerably lower than in previous years.

There is close liaison between the department and that of the Factory Inspector, and every effort is made to ensure that the register which the local authority is required to keep by Section 8 of the Factories Act, 1937, is maintained up-to-date.

The table to be found at the end of this report shows the matters dealt with by your inspectors.

In closing this report I wish to express my thanks to His Worship the Mayor (Councillor K. L. Smith); the Chairman of the Public Health Committee (Councillor W. E. Morgan); the Town Clerk (Mr. J. Macfadyen); the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. D. J. N. McNab), and the members of the staff of my department for their co-operation and loyal service throughout the year.

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

“Stour Cottage,”
Barrack Road,
Christchurch

August, 1956.

TABLE 1.
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	372
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	494
Housing Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	334
Drainage Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,007
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	826
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	557
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	211
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	245
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	142
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Vans, Tents, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	132
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Shops (Shops Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	510
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Refuse Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	450
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	409
Salvage and Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	323
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,045
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rivers and Streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	...	...	179

8,530

TABLE 2

RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department.

(a) DRAINAGE:

Number of new premises drained	...	...	...	...	227
Number of houses and premises redrained	...	...	...	...	11
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	...	...	...	...	33
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	27
Length in yards of stoneware drains laid	...	...	...	...	11,160
Manholes and covers provided	...	...	...	...	711
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	138
New gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	641
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	...	...	...	...	203
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Water tests applied	...	...	...	...	683
Smoke tests applied	...	...	...	...	99
Colour tests applied	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	5
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	9
Septic tanks constructed	...	...	...	...	6
Septic tanks abolished	...	...	...	...	1

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS:

New W.C. accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	38
New W.C. apartments provided	...	...	...	...	38
New W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	40
W.C.'s cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	39
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	26
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	29
Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	38
New waste pipes trapped	...	...	...	...	103
Pail closets and/or middens abolished	...	...	...	...	4

(c) MISCELLANEOUS:

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Stack pipes disconnected or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	17
Yards repaired	...	...	...	...	1

TABLE 2 (continued)

Floors of rooms relaid	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors of rooms repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
New windows provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired and/or made to open	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	10
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilated food stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Staircases provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	146
Nuisances — Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	2
— Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	2
— Animals	...	...	...	...	...	1
— Accumulation of manure and refuse	...	...	...	...	...	3
Workrooms cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	20
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bakehouses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish frying premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1

TABLE 3

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

During the year 591 Complaints were received as detailed below:—

Nature of Complaint							Number Received
Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dilapidations	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sink waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective lavatory waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quality of water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insanitary conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective fireplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Absence of dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smells	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fleas and bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Suspected food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
							<hr/> 591

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Notices	Outstanding 31/12/54	Number served	Complied with	Work done by L.A. in default	Outstanding 31/12/55
Informal	9	44	42	—	11
Statutory	1	17	13	—	5
Total	10	61	55	—	16

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	...	7
Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936 ...	...	10

TABLE 5

RECORD OF PETROL AND OIL CONSUMPTION

YEAR	PETROL (Gals.)							
	LORRY					Angle- dozer	Van	Total
	1	2	3	4	5			
1951/52	847	1062	1664	285	943	464	48	5313
1952/53	810	639	1354	370	1000	623	69	4865
1953/54	602	530	1245	464	1050	733	31	4655
1954/55	372	646	1155	274	1130	732	23	4332
1955/56	594	676	1135	301	1200	744	11	4661
YEAR	OIL (Pints)							
	LORRY					Angle- dozer	Van	Total
	1	2	3	4	5			
1951/52	64	95	168	6	43	112	2	490
1952/53	125	54	197	29	88	144	—	637
1953/54	130	62	80	13	129	156	—	570
1954/55	83	103	110	12	144	151	2	605
1955/56	26	47	158	28	42	98	—	399

TABLE 6
RECORD OF SALVAGE TRANSACTIONS

Year		Paper		Textiles		Metals		Tins		Value	
		T.	C. Q. Lbs.	T.	C. Q. Lbs.	T.	C. Q. Lbs.	T.	C. Q. Lbs.	£	s. d.
1951/52	...	193	15 1 26	10	11 0 12	3	16 2 13	—	—	3655	10 9
1952/53	...	201	1 0 24	11	6 1 22	12	3 3 11	31	2 1 7	1860	9 3
1953/54	...	203	8 3 22	6	8 0 16	13	10 1 21	23	4 1 7	1318	18 6
1954/55	...	208	4 1 12	7	1 0 17	2	3 12	16	4 0 0	1743	2 0
1955/56	...	210	0 3 10	6	0 0 20	4	1 3 22	12	10 0 0	1981	8 0

TABLE 7
SUMMARY OF LORRY OPERATING COSTS

Year	Driver's Wages			Petrol and Oil			Insurance and Tax			Repairs			Depreciation			Cleaning and Greasing			Protective Clothing			Total Cost			Possible Working Days	Average No. of Working Days	Total Mileage	Total Petrol Consump.	Average M.P.G.	Average cost per mile	Average cost per lorry working day
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.							
1951/52	1239	1	0	870	15	9	338	18	1	696	8	1	820	108	19	11	12	15	2	408	6	18	0	269	199	30736	4801	7.03	40.24	4 11	1
1952/53	1235	13	6	897	11	10	297	3	10	985	10	2	331	66	3	6	17	19	11	381	1	11	267	205	29751	4173	7.75	32.85	3 12	6	
1953/54	1328	10	5	753	13	8	383	5	4	660	3	2	288	50	13	0	12	15	6	347	1	1	266	208	26797	3891	7.18	32.18	3	8	10
1954/55	1459	12	5	709	11	3	389	10	0	728	14	0	217	41	5	9	25	14	0	357	7	5	268	193	22774	3577	6.37	37.11	3 14	1	
1955/56	1851	1	10	758	3	6	388	14	4	368	4	5	212	29	6	4	16	12	0	362	2	5	269	204	25068	3906	6.42	34.69	3 11	1	

The costs shown in the above table do not include "Works Overheads":

TABLE 8.
RODENT CONTROL.
Year ending 31st March, 1956

No.	Item	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Treatment Work at Private Dwellings	153 7 7	
2	Treatment at Commercial and Industrial Premises (including Shops) ...	31 11 1	
3	Treatment of Refuse Dump and other Local Authority Premises & Sewers	35 12 4	
4	General Inspections	63 15 6	
5	Administration Expenses	132 17 9	
6	Overheads	100 0 0	517 4 3
	Gross Expenditure		517 4 3
	Gross Income		30 2 10
	Net Expenditure		487 1 5
	Ministry of Agriculture Grant 50%		243 10 8
			243 10 9

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1955 FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	19	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	119	141	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	128	160	—	—

2. **CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:**

					No. of cases in which defects were found		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred				
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector			
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	—	—	—		
Overcrowding (S.2)	1	1	—	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):							
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—		
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—		
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	4	4	—	—	—		
Total ...	15	15	—	—	—		

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (C)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	9	—	—	—	—	—

